

PCT COOPERATION TREATY

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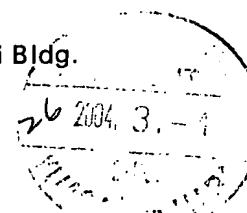
INFORMATION CONCERNING ELECTED
OFFICES NOTIFIED OF THEIR ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.3)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

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Date of mailing (day/month/year) 20 February 2004 (20.02.2004)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference YCT-856		IMPORTANT INFORMATION
International application No. PCT/JP2003/010000	International filing date (day/month/year) 06 August 2003 (06.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 07 August 2002 (07.08.2002)
Applicant NIPPON SODA CO., LTD. et al		

1. The applicant is hereby informed that the International Bureau has, according to Article 31(7), notified each of the following Offices of its election:

EP : AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR
National : BG, CA, CN, DE, GB, IL, JP, KP, KR, MN, NO, PL, RO, RU, SK, US

2. The following Offices have waived the requirement for the notification of their election; the notification will be sent to them by the International Bureau only upon their request:

AP : GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW
EA : AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM
OA : BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG
National : AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BR, BY, BZ, CH, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DK, DM, DZ, EC,
EE, ES, FI, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IN, IS, KE, KG, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PT, SC, SD, SE, SG, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

3. The applicant is reminded that he must enter the "national phase" before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date before each of the Offices listed above. This must be done by paying the national fee(s) and furnishing, if prescribed, a translation of the international application (Article 39(1)(a)), as well as, where applicable, by furnishing a translation of any annexes of the international preliminary examination report (Article 36(3)(b) and Rule 74.1).

Some offices have fixed time limits expiring later than the above-mentioned time limit. For detailed information about the applicable time limits and the acts to be performed upon entry into the national phase before a particular Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The entry into the European regional phase is postponed until 31 months from the priority date for all States designated for the purposes of obtaining a European patent.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer: Jaime LEITAO
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